

## PORTABLE DRIP-TYPE WATER BOTTLE STAND FOR PETS

### DESCRIPTION

[Para 1] BACKGROUND

[Para 2] 1. Field of the Invention.

[Para 3] The invention is related to drip-type water bottles for animals.

[Para 4] 2. Description of the Related Art.

[Para 5] Pet owners are responsible for making sure that their pets have adequate water. For pets that are traveling or kept in cages, the primary watering system has been a cylindrical water bottle with a drip tube that is bent in the middle. The bend and the length of the drip tube are design so that the water bottle can be secured to the outside of a cage with the drip tube protruding downward into the cage where it is accessible to the pet. The pet learns that licking the drip tube will release some of the water in the bottle.

[Para 6] There are many situations, however, where this arrangement is inadequate. For example, if the cage is no longer available, if the pet is being displayed at a show, or if the pet refuses to enter the cage, the water bottle attached to a cage will not be useful. What is needed, therefore, is a system for supporting a water bottle for pets with its drip tube downward that does not require a cage.

[Para 7] SUMMARY

[Para 8] A system for supporting a water bottle for pets with its drip tube downward that does not require a cage is a stand comprising a base portion and a holder portion having a top end, bottom end, and an internal cavity at least large enough to support a water bottle, the bottom end secured substantially perpendicularly to the base portion, and the top end having a slot

extending longitudinally along the holder portion and terminating above the bottom end at least as wide as a water bottle drip tube. These and other features, aspects, and advantages of the present invention will become better understood with regard to the following description, claims, and accompanying drawing.

#### [Para 9] DRAWING

[Para 10] Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the stand and system according to the present invention.

#### [Para 11] DESCRIPTION

[Para 12] The invention is a system for supporting a water bottle for pets with its drip tube downward that does not require a cage is a stand comprising a base portion and a holder portion having a top end, bottom end, and an internal cavity at least large enough to support a water bottle, the bottom end secured substantially perpendicularly to the base portion, and the top end having a slot extending longitudinally along the holder portion and terminating above the bottom end at least as wide as a water bottle drip tube.

[Para 13] Turning to Fig. 1, the stand has two main components. The holder portion 14 has an internal cavity that has a clearance at least large enough to support a water bottle 10. It may have a round cross section, or a regular polygon cross section. The preferred embodiment, which is shown, uses a square cross section. The holder portion 14 has a top end 12, a bottom end 16, and a slot 26 extending from longitudinally along the holder portion and terminating above the bottom end 16. It has been discovered that a good termination point is three inches above the bottom end 16. The slot 26 is at least as wide as the water bottle drip tube 24 it is designed to support.

[Para 14] The holder portion 14 is secured substantially perpendicularly to a base portion 18. The base portion 14 is preferably rectangular. The purpose of the base portion 18 is to keep the water bottle 10 and holder portion 14 from tipping over. Therefore, it has been discovered that the base portion 14

should extend beyond the holder portion by at least 50% of the width of the holder portion in each direction.

[Para 15] An optional feature of the invention is to include a drip catcher container 20 for catching drips from the drip tube 24. If the drip catcher container 20 option is used, then the one end of the base portion 18 should be elongated to form an elongated end 22. The elongated end 22 should extend beyond the holder portion 14 by at least 75% of the width of the holder portion 14.

[Para 16] Another optional feature is a handle, which is not shown. A tee handle or loop handle are preferred.

[Para 17] The stand and system according to the present invention are designed to work with a standard, round, animal water bottle 10. A drip tube 24 is secured to a water bottle 10 opening. The drip tube 24 is bent in the middle. The end of the drip tube terminates at a point outside a zone projected by the water bottle cylinder to the length of the drip tube 24. In this way, the bottle 10 can be mounted outside of a cage, with the drip tube 24 protruding inside the cage, as is done in the prior art.

[Para 18] In the present invention, a user places a water bottle 10 with the drip tube 24 down into the holder portion 14 such that the drip tube 24 protrudes through the slot 26. The size of the internal cavity of the holder portion 14 should be only slightly larger than the water bottle 10, but the cavity can be larger. As the water bottle 10 slides down the holder portion 14 cavity, it is stopped by the drip tube 24 contacting the bottom of the slot 26. Preferably, the termination point of the drip tube 24 should be at a height above the base portion 18 that is comfortable for a pet to access.

[Para 19] While there have been described what are at present considered to be the preferred embodiments of this invention, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various changes and modifications may be made therein without departing from the invention, and it is, therefore, aimed to cover all such changes and modifications as fall within the true spirit and scope of the invention.

